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Starting January 1, 2012



Paper or Plastic? Bring Reusables Instead!

San José will be shopping greener than ever. All grocery and retail stores in San José can no longer provide free carryout bags with handles at checkout beginning January 1, 2012. You have the option to bring or purchase your own reusable bags or purchase recycled content paper bags. Consider the following to help you remember your reusable bags and avoid the bag charge:

- Keep reusable bags by the door, in your car, or near car keys.
- Keep foldable bags in pockets, backpacks, or your purse.
- Give your friends and family a reusable bag, and encourage them to start using them today.

Did you know that a high-quality reusable bag has the potential to replace over 600 single-use plastic

bags over its lifetime? Plastic bags are one of the most common litter items found in creek cleanups. Paper bags are just as problematic taking 14 million trees each year in the United States to produce a year's supply for retail use. Shopping with reusable bags is a great way to take part in reducing litter and conserving natural resources. Don't wait for January 1; get in the habit of shopping with reusable bags today. Be sure to return clean, empty, single-use plastic bags to your local grocery store for recycling. Do not place them in your recycling cart.

Learn more about the ordinance at www.sjrecycles.org/bags, e-mail Bring-ur-Bag@sanjoseca.gov or call (408) 534-BYOB (2962).



2011 Holiday Collection

In 2011, because both Christmas and New Year's Day fall on a Sunday, your garbage, recycling, yard trimmings collection, and street sweeping schedule will not be affected.

When the holiday season is over, set your tree out at the curb from **December 26, 2011** through **February 3, 2012** for free recycling. Natural and flocked trees are accepted. Simply remove the stand, tinsel, and decorations, and cut the tree into 5-foot pieces or shorter. Once you have done your part, we will do ours to ensure the trees are recycled.



COMING SOON: Look Up Your Collection Day Information Online



You've been asking for online access to collection schedule information. The **Collection Day Look-up Tool** will be available in early 2012 and will provide your garbage, recycling, yard trimmings collection day and street sweeping schedule with a click of a mouse.

Visit www.sjrecycles.org/residents for more information. In an effort to conserve resources, we will no longer send printed calendars by mail.



Bring Out the "Green" In Your Holidays

1. Give the gift of an experience. Save a trip to the store and reduce waste by treating your loved ones to a memorable experience, such as an evening at Downtown Ice, a visit to Happy Hollow Park & Zoo, or a movie night.

2. Prevent litter with an Extra Garbage Sticker. Waste from overfilled garbage carts can be blown into your street and down storm drains. Place extra garbage in a 32-gallon plastic bag labeled with a sticker. Purchase stickers at all libraries, SaveMart, Lucky and Safeway stores in San José, or at City Hall. Cart lids must be completely closed for pick up.

Happy Hollow Park & Zoo is a great place to have some holiday fun — no wrapping needed!



3. Leave the big stuff to us. This holiday season you may be receiving large electronics or appliances. The Recycle Plus large item collection service can help you save money and time by collecting your old, unwanted items at a very convenient location — your curbside. For \$25, a total of three large items, such as appliances and televisions, can be collected. Visit www.sjrecycles.org/residents or call your recycling hauler to schedule a pick-up appointment.

Contact California Waste Solutions at **(408) 213-7800**, unless you live in west San José. West San José residents call GreenTeam at **(408) 282-4400**.

4. Go from the pan to the can. Your holiday meal is enjoyed by all — except your kitchen sink. Pouring fats, oils, and grease down the drain or in your garbage disposal clogs pipes, potentially causing backups into your home. Avoid an expensive visit from the plumber by scraping oil and grease into a non-breakable container, such as an old can, and placing it in the garbage.



5. Drop off portable devices. If you receive new electronics, such as cell phones, pagers, laptops, digital cameras, or MP3 players, get rid of the old ones by scheduling a free drop-off appointment. Call **(408) 299-7300** or visit www.hhw.org. Electronics contain harmful metals such as lead and mercury that cannot be placed in your garbage or recycling cart.

For more information on how to recycle unwanted items that do not belong in your garbage or recycling cart, call the Recycling Hotline at **(800) 533-8414** or visit www.recyclestuff.org



Make a New Year's Resolution to Reduce Your Junk Mail

Every year, San José residents recycle over 74,000 tons of junk mail and mixed paper. San José has partnered with Catalog Choice, a free online service to reduce junk mail. Catalog Choice allows San José residents and businesses to "opt out" of receiving unwanted store catalogs, phone books, coupons, and credit solicitations.

Sign up for Catalog Choice at <http://sanjose.catalogchoice.org>, and encourage your friends, neighbors, and family to sign up too! It's a small and easy step to keep waste out of our landfills, and conserve natural resources.



Sign up for a free account today!

Recycle Plus: Curbside Tips

Q: I am not sure what to do with my Styrofoam®. I used to be able to place it in the recycling cart, but now I am hearing that it should be disposed of in the garbage. Where should I place it?



Polystyrene goes into the garbage cart.

A: Polystyrene (commonly known as Styrofoam®) cups, plates, egg cartons, meat and fruit trays, take-out containers, foam packaging and peanuts* should all be placed in the garbage cart. San José no longer collects polystyrene in your recycling cart. Polystyrene tends to be contaminated with food and breaks apart easily during the collection process making it difficult to capture and recycle.

**Tie packaging peanuts securely in a plastic bag to avoid having them blow into storm drains.*

Q: What can I do to deter scavengers from rummaging through my recycling cart?

A: Follow these simple tips to help prevent this activity:

- Keep your recycling cart in your garage or other secure area on non-collection days.
- Place your recycling cart at curbside in the morning instead of the night before collection.
- Cover glass and aluminum recyclables with paper and cardboard so that they are not visible.
- Do not confront scavengers.



Q: What do I do with large pieces of cardboard accumulated during the holidays?

A: Always flatten cardboard boxes before placing them in your recycling cart. Cut large boxes small enough to fit loosely inside your cart so it does not get stuck and prevent the cart from being emptied during collection. If your recycling cart is full, flatten and cut your cardboard into pieces no larger than 4 feet by 4 feet, and lean them against the cart.

ReSources Right To Your Inbox

Want timely environmental news, events, and tips throughout the year? Get the **ReSources** e-newsletter delivered right to your inbox. Sign up with your email address at <http://brightgreen.sanjoseca.gov> today! It's your source for information from the City's utilities and Green Vision initiatives.



Join Us and Enter to Win an Extra Garbage Sticker!

Check us out on Facebook by "liking" Bright Green San José at [facebook.com/BrightGreenSanJose](https://www.facebook.com/BrightGreenSanJose)

Get quick updates on all of the City's environmental programs and initiatives and share your green tips, experiences, and opinions. Plus, if you "like" us and post your favorite green tip or experience, you will be entered into a raffle to win a free Extra Garbage Sticker. The contest* runs through January 2012; winners must be residents of San José and will be notified in February.

**Contest rules can be found on our Bright Green San José Facebook page.*



Contact Us

Your feedback is valuable! Tell us what you think at any time, and for more Recycle Plus information:

Online:
www.sjrecycles.org

E-mail:
customerservice@sanjoseca.gov

Phone:
(408) 535-3500

Mail:
Environmental Services Department
Attn: Recycle Plus
200 East Santa Clara Street, 10th Floor
San José, CA 95113

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, City of San José Environmental Services Department materials can be made available upon request in alternative formats, such as Braille, large print, audiotape or computer disk. Requests may be made by calling (408) 535-3500 (voice) or (800) 735-2929 (California Relay Service).



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Home Gardening Workshop Calendar

Attend FREE workshops to learn backyard composting basics as well as other techniques to create a sustainable garden. Space is limited; register now!

Gardening From the Ground Up Healthy soil is the foundation of a garden. This workshop will show you how to identify your soil type, amend your soil, compost, and sheet mulch. Hands-on practice available.

Saturdays, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

March 3 • August 4

Backyard Composting Turn your grass, leaves and kitchen scraps into a wonderful soil amendment. Green waste and worm composting will be covered. *Only Wriggly Ranch and Soil Savers available for purchase.*

Wednesdays, 6–8 p.m.

April 11 • June 6 • July 11 • August 22

Bay-Friendly Gardening Basics Provides an overview of the Bay-Friendly philosophy to gardening. Topics range from soils to pest management and plant selection.

Saturdays, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

April 14 • September 29

Spring in Guadalupe Gardens Event Celebrate Earth Day and the great outdoors. *Worm workshop and bin sale. Only Wriggly Ranch and Soil Savers available for purchase.*

Saturday, April 28, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Bay-Friendly Garden Tour The annual self-guided tour showcases sustainable home and school gardens in Santa Clara County.

Note: Registration begins in February. Save the date!

Sunday, April 29

Let Worms Eat Your Garbage Step-by-step fundamentals of composting using red wiggler worms. Create a worm habitat with a worm bin, troubleshoot your worm bin, and use your valuable worm castings.

Saturday, May 19, 10 a.m.–Noon

Gardening to Manage Pests Naturally Learn to control pests such as snails, slugs, aphids, and yellow jackets without the use of pesticides. Attract beneficial insects to your garden.

Saturday, June 9, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Workshops are brought to you by the Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission and the City of San José. The Bay-Friendly Program provides integrated services including residential classes, home tours of sustainable gardens, and trained professionals that can help homeowners and businesses create sustainable cost effective gardens and landscapes.

Emma Prusch Park Meeting Hall
647 S. King Road,
San José, 95116
(Rain or shine)

Register at www.reducewaste.org or call the Rotline at (408) 918-4640.

Guadalupe River Park Conservancy Visitor & Education Center,
438 Coleman Avenue,
San José, 95110

Register at grpg.org
The Guadalupe River Park Conservancy is a non-profit organization.

County Service Center Auditorium
1555 Berger Drive,
San José, 95112

Register at www.reducewaste.org or call the Rotline at (408) 918-4640.

Guadalupe Gardens
438 Coleman Avenue,
San José, 95110

Visit www.grpg.org for more information.
The Guadalupe River Park Conservancy is a non-profit organization.

Locations vary

Register at www.bayfriendlycoalition.org or call the Rotline at (408) 918-4640.

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Get Your Compost Bin — Dirt Cheap

Compost bins are sold at all of the above scheduled workshops from 11 a.m. until one hour after the class ends. San José residents with a valid ID, or Recycle Plus bill and picture ID, can purchase the following bins at a discounted price. Check or cash accepted – NO credit cards. *The City reserves the right to offer different bin models in the event of a sellout.*



Para obtener esta información en español, llame al (408) 535-3500.
Nếu qu. vị cần thông tin tiếng Việt, xin gọi (408) 535-3500.